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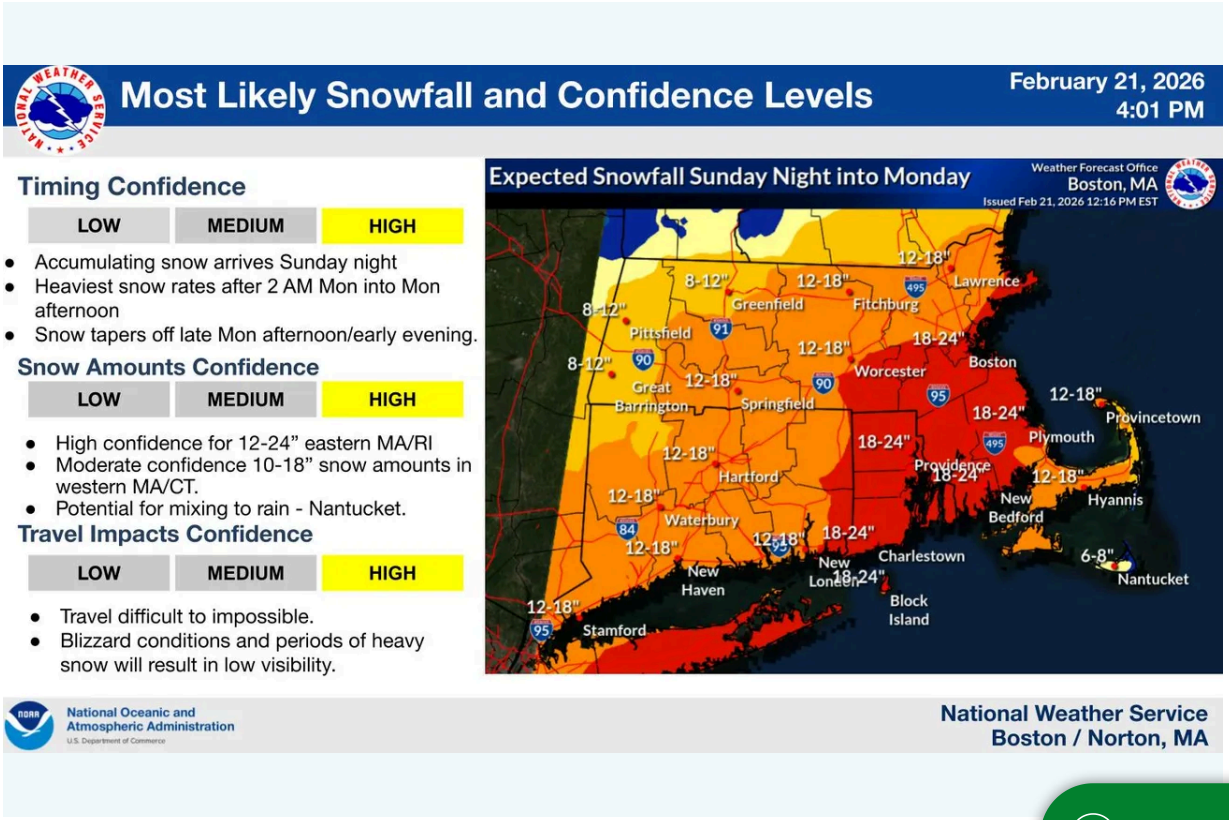
NEWS

Blizzard warning for Winchester as heavy snow and fierce winds converge

Forecasters predict up to two feet of accumulation and wind gusts near 60 mph, a combination likely to produce whiteout conditions and scattered power outages across Middlesex County.

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

February 21, 2026 . 8:29 PM — 2 min read



National Weather Service Boston/Norton map issued Feb. 21 shows expected snowfall totals of [illegible] across eastern Massachusetts, including Winchester, with the heaviest snow late Sunday night in [illegible] and high confidence in significant travel impacts.

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A powerful late-season winter storm is expected to slam eastern Massachusetts beginning Sunday afternoon, prompting a blizzard warning for Winchester and marking the fourth major snowstorm to affect the town this winter.

The National Weather Service has issued a blizzard warning for Winchester from 4 p.m. Sunday through 7 a.m. Tuesday, warning of heavy snow, strong winds and whiteout conditions that could make travel dangerous or impossible.

Forecasters say snow will begin developing Sunday night, becoming heavy late Sunday night into Monday. Total accumulations of 1 to 2 feet are possible across portions of eastern Massachusetts, including Middlesex County, with wind gusts as high as 60 mph in parts of the region.

In Winchester, the detailed forecast calls for snow mainly after 11 p.m. Sunday, with 2 to 4 inches possible overnight. The heaviest snowfall is expected Monday, when an additional 10 to 14 inches could fall during the day. Another 1 to 3 inches are possible Monday night before conditions begin improving early Tuesday.

Winds are forecast to gust between 40 and 50 mph Monday, creating blowing and drifting snow. Blizzard conditions are defined as sustained winds or frequent gusts of at least 35 mph combined with falling or blowing snow that reduces visibility to a quarter mile or less for at least three hours.

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The warning states that visibilities may drop below a quarter mile at times, with strong winds and the weight of wet snow potentially downin limbs and power lines. Travel is expected to be treacherous and p

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life-threatening during the height of the storm, particularly late Sunday night through Monday afternoon.

The storm will be the fourth plowable snowfall event to hit Winchester during the 2025-26 winter season.

The largest so far occurred Jan. 25-27, when a strong coastal system brought double-digit snowfall totals to much of eastern Massachusetts. That prolonged storm caused significant travel disruption and extended cleanup efforts across town, with snowbanks narrowing residential streets for days.

A moderate snowstorm followed Feb. 6-7, delivering several inches of accumulation and slick road conditions. Just days later, another system moved through Feb. 10-11, adding to seasonal totals and extending snow removal operations.

The late-February storm now approaching has the potential to rival those earlier events in overall impact because of the combination of heavy snow and high winds.

Town officials are urging residents to limit nonessential travel during the storm, move vehicles off streets to allow for plowing and prepare for possible power outages. Residents are also encouraged to check on elderly neighbors and ensure that emergency supplies are available in case conditions deteriorate rapidly.

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The hazardous conditions are expected to affect both the Monday morning and evening commutes. Forecasters say the most intense snowfa
could occur during that period, leading to near-zero visibility at t

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Conditions are expected to improve Tuesday, with mostly sunny skies and colder temperatures forecast once the storm pulls away.

With this latest system, Winchester will have endured four significant snow events in less than a month — a persistent winter pattern that continues to test residents, public works crews and local infrastructure as February comes to a close.

Will Dowd is a Massachusetts journalist who covers municipal government and community life for Winchester News. He runs The Marblehead Independent, a reader-funded digital newsroom.

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School

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stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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